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QUADRENNIAL REPORTS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENERAL AND SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Follow-up to the decisions taken by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations at its resumed 1995 session

Reports submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31*

Note

At its resumed 1995 session, the Committee decided to request those organizations that had failed to submit reports for the period 1990-1993 to submit their report within six months of the adoption by the Committee of its report (E/1996/17). The Committee also decided to inform those organizations that, if their report was not submitted by 2 August 1996, the Committee would take appropriate action, which could result in a change in status or in suspension or withdrawal of status; and to request them to limit their reports to 1,500 words and to concentrate on their contribution to the work of the Council or its commissions or other subsidiary organs.

* Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 26 July 1996 supersedes Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

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1. EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF CONFERENCE TOWNS

(Special consultative status)

The European Federation of Conference Towns (EFCT) was founded in 1963 as a professional association for those towns in Europe that are dedicated to the development of modern, efficient conference destinations, with the facilities and services that make this possible. In 1978 EFCT was granted consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

As the years have progressed, the fact has emerged and been widely recognized that conferences are a vital component of the communications processes that all countries in Europe must sustain if progress and social development are to be maintained:

Assisting the European Community

EFCT has more than any other conference organization made a principal contribution to helping the European Community understand the importance of a strong European conference industry and the value of attracting to Europe the main international congresses that play an essential role in professional and social interchange and development.

EFCT has maintained for several years past a liaison office in Brussels which is in continual contact with the European Union's headquarters in Brussels, and a frequent visitor to Strasbourg to assist the European Parliament in matters pertaining to conferences, meetings and exhibitions.

We endeavour to keep our members advised about the main developments that involve the Economic and Social Council, such as those concerning the convention against torture, the rights of the child, the elimination of racial discrimination, the protection of minorities and the freedom of circulation, civil and political rights and cultural rights, the protection of intellectual property, the Uruguay round of multilateral trade negotiations, research cooperation and cooperation between developed and developing countries.

The organization has an active public relations and information programme, typified by regular publications such as InterEurope, our newsletter, the annual EFCT Report on Europe, occasional works such as its history EFCT at Thirty (1994) and its annual Directory of Conference Towns.

Its educational programme is typified by its annual summer school, which has taken place in centres in Austria, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, France and Spain.

Here are some highlights from the four years covered by this review.

1990

EFCT was prominent in trade exhibitions in the United States of America, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In

cooperation with the European Community it worked hard to sustain the Community's European Year of Tourism, and published its second Report on Europe in April 1993.

A major survey of the European conference market made by Touche Ross estimated its value to be $16.9 billion, expected to rise to $56 billion.

When the EFCT Board met in Nicosia, Cyprus, in October, it welcomed Espoo, Finland, as its eightieth member, and France Congrès (representing the main conference cities of France) as an affiliate.

This year marked the conclusion of the EFCT Presidency of George Michaelides (Nicosia, Cyprus) and the election of Tuula Lindberg (Helsinki, Finland).

The annual meeting in Granada, Spain, was also the occasion for a special conference, under EFCT auspices, of the mayors and deputy mayors of EFCT cities around Europe.

1991

This was the calamitous year of the Gulf war. Conferences were cancelled, airlines ran at 20 per cent capacity, corporate meetings were cut back savagely, and a fear of flying engulfed the world, with particular emphasis in North America.

Whole floors of hotels were closed down across Europe, and many service companies went out of business. Association congresses were rather less affected, but budgets were minimized and attendances dropped severely.

At the height of this crisis, EFCT sent a high-powered deputation to the United States to reassure the Americans about the extent of the impact of the Gulf war on the potential of Europe as a tourist and conference destination. Meetings were held, in association with Successful Meetings magazine, New York, with leading professional association representatives.

We also established a Needs Assessment Survey to establish what was most needed for our organization and what new measures could be taken to provide a future healthy situation for conferences in Europe.

We addressed a seminar of the European Union on Tourism, and the Community assisted our United States visit, which was seen as a valuable component of the European Union's European Tourism Year.

Our annual summer school this year went to Lisbon, and we were able to award two scholarships to East European students - part of an ongoing programme to assist the developing nations of Eastern and Central Europe.

The outbreak of war in Yugoslavia was a disastrous aspect of this year, and largely closed down our Yugoslav member towns, with the exception of those in Slovenia.

For Ljubljana and Portorož, this was an undisputed blessing.

At our Annual Meeting in Stavanger, Norway, our keynote speaker was Paul Waterschoot, the European Commission's head of tourism, who analysed with us the policy and opportunities for business tourism in Europe.

His appreciation of the role that EFCT had been playing in the development of conferences in Europe was most welcome, and was felt to cement our partnership with the European Commission.

1992

The effects of the Gulf war persisted for a long time, and were underlined by the Europe-wide recession that followed immediately.

We were able to make contact with every member of the European Parliament to emphasize the importance of conferences in the new Europe, and were closely involved in revising a proposed Directive.

The draft legislation to which EFCT objected would have had a very harmful effect on the whole business of medical meetings across the member States, through the disallowing of assistance from pharmaceutical manufacturers; these had been helpful in the great majority of Europe's medical conferences for many years previously.

Fortunately this action was successful, and the medical meetings programme in Europe was saved.

Our annual meeting in Montreux, Switzerland, brought a number of participants from the European Union, who emphasized the work that had to be done by all to establish business tourism as a competence of the Community.

1993

At midnight on 31 December the 12 European Community nations became the long-heralded Single European Market. The EFTA region should also have become active, but following a surprise Swiss decision to stay out, this was delayed for rejigging.

EFCT had worked hard to help achieve the Single European Market and it greeted the achievement as a major step towards simplifying delegate and exhibitor travel, opening new opportunities for meetings, conventions, incentive travel and trade shows.

EFCT was also able to mark 15 years as a member of the Joint Meetings Industry Council (whose Chair it currently occupies), which brings together the top 13 professional organizations worldwide in the conference industry.

EFCT was also concerned at this time about the need for tourism, of which conference tourism is a significant part, to become a competence of the Community in Brussels.

Tourism was covered neither by the Treaty of Rome nor by the Maastricht Treaty, and as a result there is no real Community policy of programmes for it, despite the fact that it is the biggest single industry in Europe, with the greatest potential for employment and gross domestic product (GDP).

2. INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(Special consultative status)

Introduction

The International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) was granted special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in 1989 and appointed representatives to the New York, Geneva, and Vienna offices of the United Nations. In addition to official activities of the association, many individual members have contributed in their professional and private capacities to the work of the United Nations.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The International Association for Impact Assessment was organized in 1980 to bring together researchers, practitioners and users of various types of impact assessment from all parts of the world. As of 1995, its membership numbered more than 1,250 from over 90 countries, a considerable increase from previous years both in size and in distribution outside North America and Europe. IAIA has also received increased funding from the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), mainly to support participation of international members at its annual meetings.

IAIA's goals are:

(a) To advance the state of the art of impact assessment in applications ranging from local to global;

(b) To develop international and local capability to anticipate, plan, and manage the consequences of development to enhance the quality of life for all.

The Association has as its primary purpose the betterment of society through the encouragement of improved policy. In pursuance of this purpose, the Association may:

(a) Publish, edit or otherwise disseminate to practitioners and the general public articles, journals, books, monographs, audio-visual materials and newsletters concerning the practice of impact assessment;

(b) Hold meetings, conferences, seminars and other sessions at which information concerning the practice of impact assessment can be disseminated;

(c) Promote, enhance and encourage the exchange of information among practitioners and users of impact assessment and the general public;

(d) Improve the quality and professionalism of persons in the field of impact assessment;

(e) Otherwise encourage the growth and development of the field of impact assessment, the development of techniques in the field of impact assessment, and the public understanding of and participation in the field of impact assessment;

(f) Undertake such other activities as will further its purpose.

The fields of impact assessment which have particular relevance to United Nations concerns have been environmental impact assessment and, to a much lesser extent, technology assessment. In recent years, social impact assessment is finding application in various social development contexts, such as gender assessment and poverty assessment.

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations meetings

IAIA representatives contributed to the preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and participated in the conference. The IAIA non-governmental organization representative to New York authored a background paper on "Environmentally sound technology assessment" for the former Centre for the Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) publication Environmentally Sound Technology for Sustainable Development (Advanced Technology Assessment System, Issue No. 7 (spring 1992)), and IAIA attended the NGO Forum in Rio.

IAIA also attended the 1991 CSTD conference on "Energy in Climate and Development" in Saarbrücken, Germany, and the 1993 conference on "Technology Assessment in Developing Countries" jointly sponsored with the Office of Technology Assessment, Congress of the United States. It also presented a statement on behalf of IAIA to the Commission on Science and Technology at its meeting in April 1993. Although demographic impact assessment is a topic of considerable relevance, the attempt to secure IAIA participation at the 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development was unsuccessful.

Cooperation with the United Nations programmes and bodies and the specialized agencies

IAIA cooperation with the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions has concentrated mainly on the (former) Centre for Science and Technology for Development (CSTD); the World Bank and, most significantly, its Environment Department; and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Centre for Science and Technology for Development

As the focal point for technology assessment in the United Nations system, CSTD was a natural entry point for IAIA participation, and the organization was invited to present a CSTD seminar at United Nations Headquarters on technology development and diffusion in developing countries. CSTD was represented as an opening plenary speaker at the 1991 IAIA meeting in Urbana, Illinois.

IAIA worked closely to advance another CSTD initiative which resulted in the formation in 1995 of the International Association of Technology Assessment and Forecasting Institutions. The organization collaborated with CSTD staff in the preparation of their United Nations Conference on Environment and Development background papers. Following the Conference, however, CSTD was restructured and the position of technology assessment has been marginalized. IAIA might conceivably play a role in refocusing this interest within the United Nations system.

World Bank

In addition to environmental impact assessment, the World Bank has emphasized participatory development in recent years, both subjects very much aligned with the concerns of IAIA. In 1992, the World Bank's Environment Department undertook sponsorship of the association's annual meeting, in Washington, D.C. Robert Goodland, their chief ecologist, subsequently received IAIA's Rose-Hulman Award for distinguished service in the field of impact assessment and was elected President of IAIA for 1994-1995. The World Bank also played a major role at the 1995 IAIA meeting in Durban, South Africa, and has contributed significant resources in supporting the participation of members from developing countries.

United Nations Environment Programme

An early example of IAIA members' involvement is the consultancy of John Horberry of Environmental Resources, Limited, in London, on Environmental Assessment Procedures in the United Nations System (April 1990). Since 1993, UNEP and IAIA have collaborated on several joint projects, including a conference in Paris on the state of environmental impact assessment (EIA), attended by several members of the Association; regional EIA workshops, such as the one held at Livingstone, Zambia, in April 1994; a sponsored session on "African impact assessment" at the annual meeting in Quebec City; and, most significantly, the initiation of a two-year international review on "EIA effectiveness" in cooperation with IAIA and the Government of Canada. In 1995 the head of UNEP's Environment and Economics Branch received the Rose-Hulman Award. The UNEP Executive Director was the invited keynote speaker for the 1995 annual meeting, held in Durban, South Africa. In addition, the North American office has supported an initiative on the protection of indigenous peoples in which IAIA members have been involved.

Other relevant activities

Similar IAIA activities can be cited in regard to UNDP, such as support of the 1993 Shanghai meeting by the Fund for Science and Technology for Development and the liaison role played by UNDP in Brisbane, Australia. The association is seeking ways to extend and expand its cooperation with the United Nations system and to provide greater opportunities for participation in these activities by its members, especially in developing countries. The role and initiative of individual members should be noted as well, such as the long experience of one at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland in training World Health Organization workers in the EIA approach to environmental health.

3. INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR BUILDING RESEARCH STUDIES AND DOCUMENTATION

(Special consultative status)

Throughout the period under review, the International Council for Building Research Studies and Documentation (CIB) pursued its mission which is to serve its members through encouraging and facilitating international cooperation and information exchange in building and construction research, technology development and documentation.

Its membership comprises 450 institutions and individual experts in some 70 countries around the world.

Virtually every major building research institute is part of the CIB family. During the period 1990-1993, CIB membership developed in new directions and from new backgrounds encompassing more than 150 universities and technical schools, as well as documentation centres, firms, contractors, consultancies, standardization organizations, professional associations, architects, construction-law firms, building departments of banks and a host of other types of organizations.

The main thrust of activities took place through a network of working commissions and task groups, where experts from different countries focused their collective expertise on topics of current relevance to scientific and technical knowledge, legislation, standards and so forth.

The subject matter covered the broadest possible spectrum as the following division into main areas shows:

(a) Structural engineering; building materials; building technology;

(b) Architectural management;

(c) Building physics; energy; health; indoor climate;

(d) Management, organization, economics and legal aspects of construction;

(e) Housing and planning;

(f) Developing countries;

(g) Information technology and documentation; computer applications;

(h) Quality management.

Information and documentation

Building documentation and information management and transfer continued to claim a highly prominent role in CIB. Indeed, the organization began life as an international building documentation association. Within the commissions

engaged on information matters were to be found groups working on essential periodicals, terminology, building regulations, classification systems, building models, product data and so forth.

CBI was the sponsor for ICONDA, which is the international construction database operated by the Informationszentrum RAUM und BAU (RB) in Stuttgart, Germany.

Congresses and symposia

Naturally CIB made full use of meetings as a vehicle for the effective exchange of scientific knowledge. Most commissions and task groups came together annually or at least every two years.

Publications

CIB considered it a prime task to give permanent form to the results of its activities. Hence, technical reports, proceedings, recommendations, registers and so forth were published in a steady stream.

CIB is confident that material progress to the pronounced benefit of its membership was made during the period under review.

4. INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS

(Special consultative status)

The International Federation of Women Lawyers (IFWL) was formed in 1944 and was granted consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in 1954. Since submitting its last quadrennial report in 1991, IFWL has continued to grow and now has members and affiliates in 78 countries.

The objectives of IFWL, which follow the mandates of its constitution, are: (a) to establish friendly international relations on a basis of equality and mutual respect of all peoples; (b) to promote the study of comparative law; (c) to promote the principles and aims of the United Nations in their legal and social aspects; (d) to enhance and promote the welfare of women and children, realizing that on their well-being depends the happiness of the home and the strength of the family.

To realize these objectives, IFWL and its members worldwide have worked to obtain such legislation as has opened up and provided opportunities for women in the political, civil and educational fields, as well as in industry, business and the professions. IFWL has sought and obtained legislation for the advancement of women's rights and for the protection of women and children. It has continued to fight discrimination, not only against women, but against all human beings, and has actively opposed unequal administration of justice. To these ends, IFWL has worked cooperatively with the operative bodies of the United Nations and with non-governmental organizations that have the same principles and aims.

IFWL proudly numbers among its members some of the great women leaders of the world: the Honourable Angie Brooks of Liberia, one of our former presidents and the second woman ever to hold the office of President of the General Assembly of the United Nations; Helvi Sipila of Finland, another of our past presidents, the first woman to hold the position of Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations; and Dr. Mehranguiz Manoutchehrian of the Islamic Republic of Iran, also one of our past presidents, winner in 1968 of one of the six human rights awards presented by the United Nations. IFWL has many other distinguished leaders, including high-court judges and government officials, too numerous to list.

IFWL has maintained permanent representatives in New York, Geneva and Vienna; they attend meetings and work with the Secretariat in each location. IFWL regularly sends members to participate in the meetings open to it of the Commission on Human Rights, Commission on the Status of Women, Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and sessions of the Economic and Social Council, where its members make recommendations for the implementation of action. IFWL papers presented at the IFWL's Biennial Congress, reflecting the work of its members in these sessions, were on "Women in Politics and their Role in Nation Building", "Abuse of Women and the Changes by the Executive, Legislative and Judicial to Prevent Continuance", "Recent Developments in Child-related Legislation in Hong Kong" and "Report on Constitutional Rights of Women in Africa: Problems of Implementation".

IFWL's concentration has been in the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Commission on Population and Development, and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and has also worked closely with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), participating in its 78th Session in 1991. In its work with these bodies, IFWL has made available to them its members' expertise in the legal field, and their professional skills in drafting programmes and formulating proposals for legislation and for the United Nations forward-looking strategic documents, in respect of their implementation. The executive committee of IFWL endorsed, approved and sponsored the work of the subcommittee on Women and Men in Partnership Working for Equality, of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, co-chaired by its United Nations representative, and endorsed its officer's work for the organization Family Health International.

These committees were active participants in the preparatory conferences of the Commission on the Status of Women, with regard to working towards the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women and utilizing the advances and proposals of the Nairobi World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. IFWL has been and continues to be the innovative proponent of the concept of partnership, commencing between women and men, extending to civil society and government, and moving on to partnership between nations. To this end, the IFWL United Nations representatives have prepared printed articles, disseminated information, organized meetings, held workshops and caucuses, drafted proposals and worked with members of the Commission on the Status of Women and the United Nations Secretariat and United Nations subsidiary bodies.

IFWL's most notable efforts have been in the nations of Africa where IFWL has been in the forefront of memorable achievements in furtherance of the rights of women and their families. Members of IFWL in Nigeria worked to protect young women who were incarcerated and shorten the period of their detainment. Their strong anti-drug campaign has been successful as has been that in Ghana. IFWL members have been involved in attempts to alleviate the refugee problems in East Africa; maintaining an office in Nairobi, Kenya, for this purpose, they have been cooperating with the efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR). IFWL co-signed the final text of the statement on refugee and displaced women and children submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women, Vienna, 1991, and was also pivotal in the organization of the African Committee to Fight against Traditional Practices Inimical to the Health of Women and Children.

IFWL, in its fight against discrimination, has worked in the areas of indigenous peoples, narcotics and drugs, the girl child and the rights of minorities. Its members have submitted resolutions that were presented to and/or adopted by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, 1993, in particular on the right to a fair trial and a remedy. At the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 1993, IFWL continued its support of legislation to establish women's rights, and inheritance by widows, to abolish certain widowhood practices. In Pakistan, IFWL provided legal services for law reforms, combating violence and aiding women imprisoned

under gender-biased laws. IFWL participated in the first regional seminar on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children organized by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Burkina Faso and worked cooperatively with the Centre for Independence of Judges and Lawyers (CIJL) in monitoring and reporting to the United Nations harassments and persecutions worldwide.

IFWL disseminates information from United Nations bodies and agencies by conducting seminars and meetings touching on current issues and problems and through its biennial publications and semi-annual newsletter. The International Federation of Women Lawyers has a unique position in the United Nations/ non-governmental organization community, lending its legal expertise to commissions, to committees and to other non-governmental organizations, in interpreting laws, rules and regulations and assisting in the formulation of recommendations and resolutions.

5. INTERNATIONAL LAW ASSOCIATION

(Special consultative status)

Introduction

History

The International Law Association (ILA) was founded in October 1873 in Brussels under the name Association for the Reform and Codification of the Law of Nations. The present name was adopted in 1875.

For the first 10 years, conferences were held annually; thereafter they have been broadly biennial. Up to the 48th conference in 1958, only five meetings were held outside Europe, four of which were held in the United States of America, and the fifth in Buenos Aires (1922); more recently conferences have been held in Tokyo (1964), Buenos Aires (1968), New York (1972), New Delhi (1974), Manila (1978), Montreal (1982), Seoul (1986), Broadbeach/Queensland (1990) and Cairo (1992); the remaining conferences were held in Europe.

Branches were authorized in 1910, the first one being established in the Netherlands, followed by the German branch in 1912. Before World War II, other branches were established in the United States, Austria, Belgium (with Luxembourg), Denmark, France, Italy, Japan, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and Yugoslavia.

Objectives

Under its Constitution, the objectives include the study, elucidation and advancement of international law, public and private, the study of comparative law, the making of proposals for the solution of conflicts of law and for the unification of law, and the furthering of international understanding and goodwill.

Membership

At the end of the reporting period, the Association had expanded to 4,000 members: approximately 150 from 60 countries (where the Association has no branch) enrolled with headquarters and the remaining number in 42 regional branches, of which 2 are in North America, 5 are in Central and South America, 10 are in Asia, 1 is in Oceania, 2 are in Africa and 22 are in Europe.

Methods of work

The International Law Association has been described as a laboratory for the development of international law. Its activities are administered by headquarters in London. The Executive Council meets twice a year. The academic work, particularly in the case of the international committees, is carried out under the guidance of the Association's Director of Studies.

Activities

The focus of the Association's activities is the series of biennial conferences for which the Committees prepare reports for discussion and which have often resulted in the adoption of resolutions that have had a considerable influence on the development of international law. During the reporting period (1990-1993) two conferences were held, one in 1990 at Broadbeach, Queensland, and the other in 1992 at Cairo.

The above conferences resulted in the submission of the following:

(a) Final report on "International Monitoring of Human Rights Practices Under States of Emergency" and "Guidelines for Bodies Monitoring Respect for Human Rights during States of Emergency", addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Director-General of the International Labour Organization, the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and other executive directors of non-governmental organizations with special interest in the topic;

(b) Ninth and final report and three protocols to instruments previously prepared, being the Statute for an International Commission of Criminal Inquiry and the Statute for an International Criminal Court. The three protocols in question were protocol II covering the defences to be applicable in international criminal jurisdiction; protocol IV dealing with the rules on evidence, seizure, search, summons, custody and arrest, and protocol V relating to enforcement of sentences and orders of the International Criminal Court and of the International Commission of Criminal Inquiry, addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with the request that the documents be made available for consideration by (a) the Economic and Social Council and (b) the representatives of all States Members of the United Nations;

(c) Report and draft convention on the "Legal Aspects of Air Traffic Control", addressed to the International Civil Aviation Organization;

(d) Report and draft instrument on the "Elaboration of an International Instrument Concerning the Protection of the Environment from Damage Caused by Space Activities", addressed to the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

(e) Report and draft declaration of "Principles of International Law on Compensation to Refugees", addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with the request that the declaration be distributed, together with the report, to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the general secretariat of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and other relevant international bodies;

(f) Report of the Committee on State Immunity, with a review of recent developments in this field in respect of the draft articles prepared by the International Law Commission as compared with the articles of the International

Law Association's Montreal draft convention of 1982, addressed to the International Law Commission.

The 64th conference of the International Law Association (Broadbeach), at its plenary session on 25 August 1990, condemned the actions of the Government of Iraq resulting in the adoption of Security Council resolutions 660 (1990) of 2 August 1990, 661 (1990) of 6 August 1990, 662 (1990) of 9 August 1990, and 664 (1990) of 18 August 1990, in particular the invasion and purported annexation of Kuwait, and the threats to the lives and security of third State nationals within the boundaries of Iraq and Kuwait, and strongly supported all lawful measures taken to enforce compliance with the decisions of the Security Council.

Other reports presented at the Conferences in 1990 and 1992 included the work of ILA's international committees on:

(a) International commercial arbitration;

(b) Cultural heritage law;

(c) New international economic order;

(d) Legal aspects of long-distance air pollution;

(e) Legal aspects of extraterritorial jurisdiction;

(f) Legal aspects of intercountry adoption and protection of children;

(g) Securities regulation;

(h) International monetary law;

(i) Maritime neutrality;

(j) Exclusive economic zones;

(k) Formation of customary (general) international law;

(l) Arms control and disarmament law;

(m) Legal aspects of sustainable development.

In addition to the ILA committee working sessions, whose reports and discussions were published in the biennial conference reports (vols. 64 and 65), workshops were held on the following topics:

(a) Renewal of the International Court of Justice;

(b) Transit rights in straits and archipelagos;

(c) Regime change and the dissolution of States: consequences for world order;

(d) Islamic law and international law;

(e) United Nations Decade of International Law;

(f) Changing trends in world trade law.

In 1992, with regard to the United Nations Decade of International Law, one of the Association's proposed projects was the identification of a "basic library": a set of books of international law, to be distributed to newly independent and other States likely to lack such basic or up-to-date materials, thereby facilitating and promoting the development of international law. Project funding was obtained in 1993.

Another project proposed was a study on a new world order under law, to be undertaken by a group of mainly younger lawyers with substantial representation from developing countries.

In 1993 the Association held its first European regional conference in Budapest (2-5 October). Its theme was "The Transformation of Europe: its impact on international law" and the topics considered in discussion groups and panels included "Human rights, minority rights and the protection of refugees: question of definition, implementation and control", and "International environmental law" relating to nuclear law, air pollution, water law, controls on the export of pollution and European cooperation in environmental issues arising in Central and Eastern Europe. Selected papers were published in Acta juridica Hungarica.

Throughout the period covered by this report, the usual contact was maintained with the International Social Science Council (ISSC), Paris, and members of the Association were engaged in various activities in cooperation with and support of the United Nations, including participation at meetings and events sponsored by the United Nations and its agencies and subsidiary bodies.

Complimentary copies of reports of the Association's conferences held in 1990 (Queensland) and 1992 (Cairo) were issued to:

(a) United Nations, Dag Hammarskjöld Library, New York;

(b) United Nations Office at Geneva;

(c) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Paris;

(d) International Social Science Council (ISSC);

(e) United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), Vienna;

(f) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi;

(g) International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), Rome;

(h) International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL), San Remo;

(i) International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, Geneva;

(j) The Peace Palace, The Hague;

(k) Hague Conference on Private International Law, The Hague;

(l) International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Montreal;

(m) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Rome;

(n) Council of Europe, Strasbourg.

6. INTERNATIONAL SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION, INC.

(Special consultative status)

The International Senior Citizens Association, Inc. (ISCA), was founded in 1963 by Marjorie Thorn Borchardt. Mrs. Borchardt believed world peace and understanding could be achieved through the leadership of seniors around the world. ISCA is an independent organization open to all mature people regardless of nationality, race, creed or economic status. Purposes of ISCA are to act as a catalyst and forum for the exchange of ideas for mature voices on global issues; to establish means of friendly communication among mature people for education and cultural development; to enhance the prestige of mature people in world affairs through utilization of their wisdom and experience; to cooperate with non-profit and government agencies working for the welfare and happiness of mature people throughout the world. ISCA currently represents membership in all five continents. It provides a global network of governmental, corporate and industrial organizations and individuals worldwide.

We have biennial conferences: 1990 conference held in Guadalajara, Mexico; 1992 conference in Vancouver, Canada. The purpose of the conferences is to bring together representatives of all countries to discuss issues and concerns of seniors throughout the world.

Annual programmes

ISCA has established the Marjorie Thorn Borchardt Award in memory of its founder and first president who contributed greatly to the enrichment of the lives of the elderly. The award is given to an outstanding volunteer person who has contributed substantially in his/her efforts to work for the welfare and happiness of mature people throughout the world.

The annual Borchardt international pageant serves to bring together and unite seniors from all ethnic communities. This is a day of cultural entertainment, ethnic exhibits and a taste feast to recognize all cultural and ethnic groups.

Forums address global concerns related to senior citizen issues and the welfare of all peoples. Speakers have addressed the issues of Medicare, social security, housing, health insurance and current events affecting seniors.

The quarterly newsletter, Forum, provides a report on the activities of ISCA; information on senior issues from countries throughout the world; activities of the United Nations. This newsletter serves as a communication link between members, chapters and organizations around the world.

The ISCA co-sponsors with other senior organizations many annual events including (to name a few): African-American Heritage Celebration (February event); Asian and Pacific Islander Older Adults Festival; Latin American Heritage Programme; and the Annual Central City Senior Programme which provides information to seniors, caregivers, mobility- and/or sensory-impaired persons and friends.

Our programmes urge seniors to work within their communities to ensure well-being and health to all, understanding of differences and attention to the simple requirements of daily living.

Health/Wellness Programme: ISCA co-sponsored a video entitled "Cardiovascular diseases in the elderly". This video will be distributed worldwide to teach wellness, and how to care for one's own body.

ISCA attended the annual conferences for non-governmental organizations, Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat, New York, 1991-1993.

ISCA has developed a worldwide network of concerned individuals, chapters and member organizations and has emerged as a major voice for seniors worldwide.

We quote the words of the founder of ISCA: "Old age knows no distinctions between geographical borders, between political divisions - all are united under the bonds of age."

ISCA was incorporated in California in 1963 as a non-profit organization in affiliation with the United Nations.

As stated in the preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations" and "universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

7. INTERNATIONAL SPORTS ORGANIZATION FOR THE DISABLED

(Special consultative status)

The membership of the International Sports Organization for the Disabled (ISOD) consists of over 35 countries spread over five continents. The central purpose of ISOD is to develop and promote sports for amputees, dwarfs and a multiplicity of disabled people on local, regional, national and international levels.

In order to achieve this goal, ISOD helps each country develop programmes to locate potential athletes, understand the problems of such athletes and subsequently help develop sets of rules for these athletes in order that they may have a meaningful competition.

These programmes require ISOD to fine-tune the efforts of the more developed countries in setting up their games and to go into countries of the third world so as to help them to develop their own programmes and, subsequently, to be competitive internationally.

New world records are constantly being established as greater excellence in these sports is achieved. This, in itself, though exciting, is not enough, since it follows that if physically disabled people can reach these levels of athletic greatness, it becomes apparent that they should not be discriminated against in the job market or in society in general.

ISOD, through various promotional programmes, has made one of its goals the demonstration of the high levels of achievement of its athletes, in order for a more complete understanding of the disabled person to emerge internationally.

A non-governmental organization in consultative status, with the Economic and Social Council, ISOD can, on behalf of its ideas, network at the United Nations with other organizations that have contacts in different countries. These contacts can be cross-utilized for the purpose of attaining common altruistic goals. In some countries, promotion of the disabled population is still difficult owing to an archaic perspective resulting in a lack of social recognition of the disabled person's potential. ISOD has utilized sports as a vehicle for the overthrow of the bigotry that is present in certain sectors worldwide and that needs to be overcome. The United Nations has allowed ISOD to develop solutions for this problem by associating with other non-governmental organizations with similar purposes in different areas internationally. It has found the people in other non-governmental organizations to be quite open and helpful and consequently the positive results of ISOD's interchange with them have been reciprocal. ISOD has also learned considerably from some of the scheduled meetings given at the United Nations for non-governmental organizations. In essence, ISOD has been quite active in exchanging ideas with other non-governmental organizations and has found the interaction quite productive.

In summary, ISOD is an international sports organization that promotes sports for the disabled and, in doing so, not only fosters international self-esteem, but also promotes understanding on behalf of the disabled community

internationally by communicating with other non-governmental organizations and being present at meetings where common goals can be more effectively promoted internationally. We have found our experience at the United Nations very positive and look forward, as a non-governmental organization, to continuing our relationship with the United Nations in the future.

8. INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT

(Special consultative status)

The main activities of the International Union of Public Transport (UITP) are:

(a) Biennial congresses (and exhibitions);

(b) Regional and specialized conferences;

(c) Research and action within its technical commissions.

Further activities include the publication of the magazine Public Transport International, research reports and working papers and the management of an extensive documentation centre on public transport at the disposal of members of UITP and invited researchers.

Biennial congresses

Two biennial Congresses have been organized in the period 1990-1993: one in Stockholm (1991) and one in Sydney (1993).

UITP congresses are reserved for UITP members and attract about 2,000 delegates from about 50 countries. The array of topics covered is large and covers all aspects of the public transport industry.

Regional and specialized conferences

Two regional conferences have been organized in the period 1990-1993: one in Yaoundé (1991) on Satisfying urban public transport demands; and one in Budapest (1992) on Structural changes in public transport.

Specialized conferences were as follows:

(a) Newcastle (1990) on Regional transport;

(b) Brussels (1990) on Automatic fare collection in public transport;

(c) Barcelona (1991) on Regional transport;

(d) Stuttgart (1992) (Light rail conference);

(e) Lisbon (1993) on Public transport obligations;

(f) Brussels (1993) on the bus and the environment.

World regions

Given the growing importance of the European Commission, a specific office (UITP EuroTeam) for dealing with European matters was established in 1991. The UITP Asia-Pacific Committee was also established in 1991 (in addition to the existing North America Committee).

Other world regions are also represented in UITP and regional activities are organized in collaboration with the World Bank (Yaoundé conference), regional public transport organizations (ALAMYS, Latin America) and the European Communities (METMED programme in the Mediterranean countries); and UITP has participated in the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

However, the structure of the public transport industry in developing and newly industrialized countries does not abet the participation of local operators and authorities in international organizations. This is particularly true for the bus sector which is organized in small or micro enterprises that do not have the means to act on the international level.

UITP is aware that developing countries have an urgent need for efficient public transport and is therefore interested in collaborating with other non-governmental organizations in order to promote the local public transport industries on the international level.

9. INTERNATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS

(Special consultative status)

The International Union of Students (IUS) is a unique umbrella organization for 124 member National Unions of Students (NUSes) from over 97 countries and territories of the world. It is estimated that some 25 million students are represented through these unions, making the IUS the world's largest students structure. Recently, 20 more National Unions and organizations of Students from the different countries of Asia, Africa, Europe, the Middle East and the Americas applied for IUS membership. This applications will be finalized in the next constitutional event.

According to the constitution, IUS supports and campaigns for the right of all young people to primary, secondary and higher education; academic freedom and students rights; the right of students to organize themselves; the right of students to participate in decision-making on all issues that concern them; the protection of human rights-improved standards of education; the eradication of illiteracy; peace, détente, disarmament, global security; solutions to global and other acute global problems; the eradication of all forms of discrimination; the upholding of humanistic values and traditions; cooperation between students and the rest of society and the development in students of a sense of responsibility; active participation in the world youth movement and a contribution to its unity.

IUS is financed by membership fees, sales of International Student Identity Cards, funding of projects and activities from intergovernmental and other non-governmental funding organizations, sales of IUS publications and materials, proceeds from the International Students Travel Bureau and International Students Foundation, Limited. Recently, IUS has been faced with a difficult financial situation. Despite the difficulties, some concrete initiatives have been taken by the organization to overcome this situation. A project on IUS real estate is now in process. Realization of this project will give a new impulse to IUS financial life.

IUS actively participated in the following United Nations and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) activities and those of non-governmental organizations in consultative status within the United Nations system: forty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights (23-28 February 1992, Geneva, Switzerland); fifth meeting of the UNESCO/NGO Standing Committee (10-13 March 1992, Paris, France); NGO/UNESCO symposium on the theme "Educational function of the family and cultural change" (12 and 13 March 1992, Paris, France); International Conference on Academic Freedom and University Autonomy, Sinaia, Romania; United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit) (3-14 June 1992, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil); twenty-third conference of non-governmental organizations of UNESCO (15-17 June 1992, Paris, France); forty-fourth session of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (8-28 March 1992, Geneva, Switzerland); sixth United Nations/European NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine (24 and 25 August 1992, Geneva, Switzerland); ninth United Nations international meeting for non-governmental organizations on the question of Palestine (26-28 August 1992, Geneva, Switzerland); third session of the

Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights (14-20 September 1992, Geneva, Switzerland); round-table meeting on the Human Being as the Focus for United Nations Action: Challenges to NGOs (Economic and Social Council Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations) (21 October 1992, Geneva, Switzerland); NGO Special Committee on Disarmament (1992, Geneva, Switzerland); ninth Collective Consultations of NGOs on Literacy-Education for All (UNESCO) (2-5 November 1992, Cairo, Egypt); tenth Collective Consultations of Youth NGOs (UNESCO) (2-5 November 1992, Beijing, China); meeting of working group of Collective Consultations of Youth NGOs (UNESCO) (14 December 1992, Paris, France); regional meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean for the World Conference on Human Rights (18-22 January 1993, San Jose, Costa Rica); International Congress on Education for Human Rights and Democracy (UNESCO/United Nations Centre for Human Rights) (8-11 March 1993, Montreal, Canada); second meeting of the Collective Consultations of Youth NGOs working group (15 March 1993, Paris, France); third meeting of UNESCO/NGO Standing Committee (15 and 16 March 1993, Paris, France); 1993 Harvard World Model United Nations Conference (28-31 March 1993, Prague, Czech Republic); regional meeting for Asia and the Pacific for the World Conference on Human Rights (29 March-3 April 1993, Bangkok, Thailand); meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights (19-30 April 1993, Geneva, Switzerland); third meeting of the Collective Consultations of Youth NGOs working group (UNESCO) (1993, Paris, France); NGO Forum carried out with World Conference on Human Rights (United Nations) (10-12 June 1993, Vienna, Austria); World Conference on Human Rights (United Nations) (14-25 June 1993, Vienna, Austria); Conference of NGOs board meeting (3 and 4 July 1993, Geneva, Switzerland); International Youth Consultation on Global Governance and Future of the United Nations (3 and 4 July 1993, Geneva, Switzerland); Geneva Informal Meeting of International Youth NGOs (3 July 1993, Geneva, Switzerland); first UNESCO NGO Consultation of Asia and the Pacific (January 1994, Hanoi, Viet Nam); International Conference on Population and Development (United Nations) (1994, Cairo, Egypt); World Youth Leadership Summit (28 August-1 September 1995, United Nations Headquarters, New York).

Besides participation in the United Nations and United Nations-related relevant events, IUS organized, co-organized, sponsored and participated in a number of international, regional and national events in the different parts of the world. IUS organized and participated in various solidarity missions and voluntary activities. United Nations/UNESCO officials were invited and participated in some of the IUS events.

IUS prepared and published different papers and materials related to United Nations resolutions. Some of the IUS reports and publications are enclosed with this report. Recently, IUS designated a resident representative to the United Nations in New York, who is standing by in New York for any further clarifications or questions regarding this report or about IUS activities in general.

10. WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Special consultative status)

The past four years for the non-governmental organization representative at the United Nations have proved most gratifying and rewarding.

The representative is grateful to the Connectional President and the Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (WMS) for the opportunity to serve. One of the most important considerations is that the Non-Governmental Organization Programme has become truly "connected". Because of the WMS/NGO conferences, begun last year, our missionaries have come from every district across the nation to participate.

As a result, they are learning what it means for the Women's Missionary Society to have a relationship with this world body, and that the Society, in carrying out its role, is facilitating the work of the United Nations.

The United Nations facilitates and ensures consistency in respect of the participation of non-governmental organizations in the deliberations and decision-making process of United Nations legislative bodies. It utilizes the expertise, services and capacities available among non-governmental organizations in the implementation of approved projects and policies. A great amount of information on the objectives and purposes of the United Nations for dissemination by non-governmental organizations is generously provided.

The representative of the organization at the United Nations performs the following activities:

(a) Attends the annual conference of the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat for Non-Governmental Organizations held annually in September;

(b) Attends at least two briefings, monthly (when related to our issues) on women and children, human rights, peace and justice, and health;

(c) Develops a resource library of appropriate materials that speak of our issues;

(d) Disseminates resources to other conferences or districts, upon request;

(e) Serves in collaboration with other non-governmental organizations on behalf of WMS-related issues;

(f) Conducts workshops for local and area missionary groups;

(g) Organizes and executes what promises to become an annual WMS/NGO conference at the United Nations;

(h) Publishes highlights in our Missionary Magazine;

(i) Develops an information brochure explaining the non-governmental organization programme.

Our long-range goal is to solicit a liaison from every district over the nation, who will then solicit a conference liaison from a given State.

Though special documents and resources are provided to our constituents from the NGO Resource Centre for awareness seminars, we make suggestions for implementation such as through:

(a) Organizing health fairs, with information from the World Health Organization;

(b) Organizing against the treatment of refugees from countries whose pollution is black;

(c) Providing resources for battered women and children in our communities;

(d) Developing programmes for boarder babies born to drug-addicted mothers, or mothers with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS);

(e) Encouraging churches to help fight the war on drugs;

(f) Sponsoring a missionary to serve in underdeveloped countries;

(g) Lobbying with our legislators for adequate health insurance;

(h) Developing resolutions from the WMS on concerns relative to national or international problems.

We always invite our WMS constituency to continue to communicate with us.

11. WORLD YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

(Special consultative status)

Substantive contribution to the Economic and Social Council through oral or written statements

The World Young Women's Christian Association (World YWCA) made several statements to the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies.

Consultations with members of Economic and Social Council subsidiary bodies or the Secretariat

World YWCA has remained in close contact with the Secretariat in Geneva, New York, Paris and Vienna, through its permanent representatives and by organized teams of volunteers at each location, on matters of common concern, for example, human rights, the status of women, youth, environment and other issues related to economic and social justice for and welfare of women.

The documentation received from the Economic and Social Council and its bodies is of great interest to World YWCA and is shared as appropriate with newly developing and member national associations in 95 countries through specific correspondence, general mailings of reproduced United Nations information/publications, the monthly publication Advocacy and Briefing Notes and quarterly publications with more extensive coverage of selected issues.

Cooperation with United Nations system agencies

World YWCA continues to cooperate with United Nations system organizations in order to make use of and disseminate information to its affiliates on matters of mutual concern. Examples of organizations with which World YWCA cooperates include: the World Health Organization (WHO), on adolescent health and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS); the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), on youth and literacy; the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), on children, the girl child, violence and exploitation of children, street children, children in military situations; the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), on the situation of refugee women especially in Africa and Eastern Europe; the International Labour Organization (ILO), on employment issues; the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), on family planning, early marriage, sex education and reproductive health-related issues and so on.

Participation at United Nations conferences and meetings

World YWCA very regularly attends, with substantive input and expense, meetings and conferences of the United Nations and its related bodies, when appropriate, particularly the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights and the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat. It also attends regularly meetings of UNICEF and the UNHCR Executive Board. It has

attended special United Nations conferences including the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, United Nations/UNICEF World Summit for Children and so on. For many of the major events or conferences organized by the United Nations, the World YWCA team, along with other non-governmental organizations, involves itself in running pre-conference/NGO forums to train and prepare its delegates, many of whom are young women under age 30 (for example, for the World Summit for Children).

Preparation of materials at the requests of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies or the Secretariat

World YWCA made a substantive contribution in the form of written replies to United Nations inquiries: to the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat on the 1994 NGO Directory and on NGOs: Social Development: A New Definition for Security; to the Centre for Human Rights on the "Coordinating role of the Centre for Human Rights"; to UNESCO in preparation for the International Year of the Family; to UNICEF on International NGOs for its database; to UNICEF, on an update and new information material for the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative; to UNHCR on a survey of non-governmental organizations active in the migration, refugee, human rights and development fields - 1992; to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on the organization and activities of all non-governmental organizations in consultative status with FAO.

Other examples of consultative and substantive activities

These may be described as follows:

(a) Fact-finding mission to Palestine - 1991;

(b) World YWCA team to Namibia for election monitoring;

(c) With a grant from WHO Global Programme on AIDS, a survey was undertaken on counselling needs of young women in Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America;

(d) The World YWCA Manual on Training for Primary Health Care, translated into Portuguese by UNICEF at the request of the YWCA of Brazil;

(e) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Assembly of Women and the Environment held in November 1991 in Miami, attended by a team from World YWCA who served as panellists and presenters. As a result of this meeting, a series of women's perceptions and priorities were fully included in Agenda 21;

(f) YWCA is also part of the Youth and Family Life Network group in coordination with WHO's "Health for All Project";

(g) The UNESCO Youth Award for 1992 went to Stella Dua-Sakyi of YWCA of Ghana who was recommended by World YWCA. She attended a gathering in Paris to receive the award;

(h) United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) was one of the major donors to the World YWCA Waste Recycling Workshop in Greece in November 1991. UNIFEM also sent a rapporteur to record the event for their resource base;

(i) UNESCO/World Council of Churches and World YWCA Planning Meeting for Literacy Training in 1990;

(j) European and International United Nations/NGO Conference on the Question of Palestine. The World YWCA team was responsible for moderating two working group sessions on education and protection rights for women and children and for reporting to the final plenary;

(k) Participation in the WHO/UNICEF joint initiative to support training for adolescent health programmes;

(l) World YWCA was the Chair of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO) Development Committee;

(m) Member, Board of CONGO;

(n) Convener of the CONGO Planning Committee for the NGO Forum for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

(o) World YWCA was selected to make presentation to World Summit for Children at the Untied Nations in New York.

Dissemination of information on activities of the United Nations

Through its publication Common Concern and newsletters on its special priorities, World YWCA gave its associations news about United Nations activities. A few examples: action alerts issued on the Gulf war, the Israeli security forces' raid on the Islamic courthouse in Jerusalem. The December 1991 issue of Common Concern featured human rights issues concerning the girl child. The Convention on the Rights of the Child was sent to all YWCAs together with YWCA materials to assist them in making it known, and obtaining ratification and overall implementation in their respective national legislations. Follow-up information has been sent annually on countries that have not yet ratified it.

World YWCA circulated the following to national associations: Geneva conventions, the report on the International Conference on Nutrition, the Vienna Declaration, and Agenda 21 and the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as copies of the Convention and Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees for European YWCAs. A series of action alerts and monthly briefing notes keep the YWCA family aware of all the new and current activities of the United Nations, for example, the International Conference on Nutrition in Rome, Italy 1992.

12. WORLD WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

(Special consultative status)

Teaching activities and ways of helping others, 1990-1993

Finland Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) provides courses of study for women to help them better their lives.

Switzerland WCTU supports a street theatre which points up the woes of exploited women through drama.

Guatemala WCTU holds seminars at schools; they give help and encouragement to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) patients.

England WCTU has invested in a Mobile Education Unit which goes about nationally, teaching a healthy lifestyle and providing alcohol/drug education.

Egypt WCTU has classes for young girls in which they are taught hygiene, reading and sewing.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo WCTU holds sewing classes to help women improve their lives.

The United States of America WCTU holds essay, poster and colouring contests in schools as a means of helping children and youths learn about the effects of alcohol and drugs on their bodies and their lives; it also exhibits at fairs and conventions to promote its literature.

Helping others

Norway WCTU offers help at a Rehabilitation Centre which works with mostly women.

Japan WCTU has an Asian Women's Shelter for women seeking refuge from domestic violence and women with health and psychological problems and addictions.

In the Philippines, WCTU cooperates with the Home Enrichment Life Programme (HELP). It supports a House of Friendship for unwed mothers.

Finland WCTU supports the Emmaus Home, for prostitutes who want to improve their lives, and sorely afflicted women. It also counsels women in the Haemnlinna Women's Prison.

Egypt WCTU is involved in a Rehabilitation Centre being built between Cairo and Alexandria.

India WCTU has helped earthquake victims with food and clothing.

United Nations

World WCTU has representation in the non-governmental organization meetings both in the United States and in Switzerland.

Germany WCTU cooperates with the World Health Organization (WHO) in working to reduce alcohol consumption.

In England, WCTU is represented at the United Nations Association; the World President has served for a number of years on the Women's Advisory Council in London.

The other countries affiliated with the World Woman's Christian Temperance Union are providing services similar to those mentioned here specifically. World WCTU's major emphasis is on alcohol and drug use and abuse, which are basic to many of the problems affecting homes and families in the world today, such as crime, child abuse, prostitution, teen suicide and general lack of respect for authority.